

VZCZCXRO4681
PP RUEHFL RUEHNP
DE RUEHRO #0186 0471559
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 161559Z FEB 10
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3287
INFO RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHPU/AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE PRIORITY 0001
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN PRIORITY 0488
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE PRIORITY 4046
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES PRIORITY 4274
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1074
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 3084
RHMFISS/HQ USSOCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS ROME 000186

SIPDIS

HAITI EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [NATO](#) [IT](#) [AF](#)

SUBJECT: HAITI: ITALIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO EXPANDED MINUSTAH
FORCE

REF: STATE 12558

¶1. (U) Poloff raised reftel points with MFA Political-Military Officer Andrea Romussi on February 11. Romussi said that the Ministry of Defense is ready to deploy a self-sustaining Formed Police Unit (FPU) of 125 Carabinieri to Haiti under the MINUSTAH mandate. Approval from the Prime Minister's Office (which is required due to the extraordinary funding involved) is expected in the coming days, and the FPU should deploy on schedule by the end of February. A small Carabinieri advance party is already in Haiti to prepare the deployment. There are no plans to extend the deployment period beyond the initial six month commitment, but an extension is theoretically possible if conditions on the ground warrant it.

¶2. (U) Romussi said Italy is unlikely to be able to deploy additional FPUs simply because the Carabinieri are overstretched with over 700 deployed to Kosovo, Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon and elsewhere. Romussi noted that Italy's FPU is about twice the size of those offered by other European partners. In addition, the Carabinieri have already contributed significant training to the officers of other FPU contributing countries (Pakistan, Nepal, India) at CoESPU (Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units), the U.S.-Italian peacekeeping training center in Vicenza. Italy's FPU is willing to provide enabling support for one additional platoon of police (20 pax), and the Italians have been contacted by Serbia and Israel about this possibility. Italy's FPU is part of a larger European Gendarmerie Force (EGF) commitment of three FPUs to MINUSTAH within the framework of the EU effort in support of Haiti, and discussions are underway within the EGF steering committee (which Italy chairs this year) regarding how to distribute logistical responsibilities for the FPUs (which will also include units from France, the Netherlands, Spain, Lithuania, Poland and possibly Turkey, which has EGF observer status).

¶3. (U) According to Romussi and data provided by the Joint Operations Command, Italy currently has 896 military personnel deployed to Haiti, including the crew (440) of the aircraft carrier CAVOUR which arrived on February 4 with 197 Army engineers and equipment (186 trucks, tractors and recovery vehicles); 416 Navy personnel (force protection, medical, diving teams and crew and maintenance for 6 medevac and heavy lift helicopters (2 EH101 and 4 SH3D); 16 Air Force (force protection and airport coordinators), and 8 Carabinieri (military police). The bulk of the engineer unit

disembarked from the CAVOUR on February 4 in the Dominican Republic and made its way to Port-au-Prince overland. The CAVOUR is now anchored off Port-au-Prince and its Role 2 Medical Facility on board has been treating patients continually since its arrival. The CAVOUR also brought over 200 tons of relief assistance from the World Food Program, the Italian Red Cross and the Italian NGO Padana, in addition to Brazilian units that it picked up en route.

MINIMIZE CONSIDERED

THORNE